

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Nebraska Plastics Inc.

#### Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Nebraska Plastics Spurs Growth with Lean

##### Client Profile:

Nebraska Plastics Inc., produces Country Estate Fence and is part of an expanding market that expects custom high volume vinyl fencing materials and quick delivery. The 62-year-old company employs 120 people at its location in Cozad, Nebraska.

##### Situation:

Nebraska Plastics was experiencing growth in its markets, both nationally and internationally. Faced with increasing sales and space constraints, Nebraska Plastics realized the need to improve productivity and quality of existing resources before investing in capital equipment. The company contacted the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

##### Solution:

NMEP offered Nebraska Plastics a seven-day Lean Certificate training program where employees were introduced to Lean techniques and identification of non-value activities. Also, NMEP performed a site assessment to help identify opportunities to improve the productivity of production and improve customer delivery. By understanding where the process wastes were happening, Nebraska Plastics was able to define a plan to eliminate them. The company then was able to identify where capital improvements would streamline flow and purchase equipment and buildings to improve their operations. Nebraska Plastics has begun to move to a more profitable state and has retained all of its employees.

##### Results:

- \* Retained \$5 million in sales.
- \* Invested \$200,000 in plant and/or equipment.
- \* Invested \$25,000 in workforce development.
- \* Retained 20 jobs.
- \* Improved workforce morale and empowerment.
- \* Created a safer, more efficient workplace.

##### Testimonial:

"With the help of Nebraska MEP, Nebraska Plastics continues to grow in sales and employees. We were able to accelerate our improvements and have already been able to capitalize on more customer sales."

Leo Sims, VP of Manufacturing

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